CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:

a controller configured to select an identifier associated with a media object to send a request to play the media object, wherein the controller sends the request by transmitting the identifier stored in the controller; and

an appliance configured to receive the request from the controller, to retrieve the media object from a first server via a network connection when the media object is not stored in the appliance, and to play the media object.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the identifier is transmitted using a wireless connection.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the controller and the first server are synchronized on a predetermined time period.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the first server stores the media objects corresponding to the identifiers stored in the controller.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the media object is retrieved from the first server using the identifier received from the controller.

6. The system of claim 1, further comprising a second server coupled to the network, the second server storing at least the media objects stored in the first server.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the appliance is further configured to retrieve the media object from the second server when the media object is not found in the first server.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the media object retrieved from the second server is in a decrypted form.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the media object retrieved from the second server is in an encrypted form.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein a decryption key for the media object is stored in the controller.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the decryption key is stored in the controller after the controllers sends a payment information to the second server.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the appliance receives the decryption key from the controller to decrypt the media object.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the identifier is selected by selecting a visual representation of the identifier.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the visual representation comprises a thumbnail image representing the media object.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the controller organizes thumbnail images in groups.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the groups comprise:

a first group including all thumbnail images stored in the controller, and

a second group including selected thumbnail images from the first group.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the second group comprises:

a first subgroup including one or more playlists, each of the playlists comprising one or more thumbnail images; and

a second subgroup including one or more thumbnail images in a playlist being created.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the controller sends one play list to the appliance to request the one play list be played by the appliance.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the controller comprises a display screen to display thumbnail images in the first group and in the second group.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the controller further comprises a microphone to record an audio annotation associated with one of the

thumbnail images, and a text input area to generate text to associate with the one thumbnail image.

21. The system of claim 1, wherein the appliance is operable to play a media object not stored in the controller, and wherein the controller imports the identifier associated with the media object by sending a request to import the identifier not stored in the controller.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein in response to the request to import the identifier not stored in the controller, the appliance sends the identifier and a reduced visual representation of the corresponding media object.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the reduced visual representation is a thumbnail image of the corresponding media object.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the request to import the identifier not stored in the controller is sent with payment information.

25. The system of claim 1, wherein the appliance stores the media object in a cache.

26. The system of claim 1, wherein the appliance is one in a group comprising a personal computer, a stereo receiver, and a television.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the controller operates with multiple appliances.

28. The system of claim 1, wherein the media object is one in a group comprising a document, an audio clip and a video clip.

29. A system comprising:

first means for selecting an identifier associated with a media object to initiate a request to play the media object, the first means transmitting the identifier stored in the first means;

second means for retrieving the media object using the identifier and playing the media object; and

third means for storing the media object, wherein the second means retrieves the media object from the third means at certain times, via a network, when the media object is not stored in the second means.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the first means transmits the identifier using a wireless connection.

31. The system of claim 29, further comprising fourth means coupled to the network, the fourth means for providing the media object when the media object is not in the third means.

32. The system of claim 31, further comprising means for performing access authorization when the media object is retrieved from the fourth means.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein the means for performing access authorization comprises means for encrypting the media object and means for decrypting the media object.

34. The system of claim 29, wherein the third means for storing the media objects comprises means for synchronizing with the first means to enable the first means to have the identifiers associated with the media objects stored in the third means.

35. The system of claim 29, wherein the first means is operable with one or more second means.

36. The system of claim 29, wherein the first means comprises means for organizing the identifiers using thumbnail image representations of the media objects associated with the identifiers.

37. An apparatus comprising:

means for transmitting a first identifier associated with a first media object to request the first media object be played;

means for acquiring a second identifier associated with a second media object while the second media object is being played; and

means for organizing the first and the second identifiers.

38. The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising means for storing the first and the second identifiers.

39. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the means for acquiring the second identifier comprises means for transmitting a payment information.

40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the means for acquiring the second identifier further comprises means for generating a decryption key when the second media object is in an encrypted form.

41. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the means for organizing the first and the second identifiers comprises:

means for displaying the first media object and the second media object as thumbnail images, and

means for organizing the thumbnail images in groups.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the groups comprise:

a first group comprising the thumbnail images, and

a second group comprising subgroups of selected thumbnail images from the first group.

43. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the second group comprises:

a first subgroup including one or more playlists, each of the playlists comprising one or more thumbnail images; and

a second subgroup including one or more thumbnail images in a playlist being created.